



23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Safeguarding Information about a WhatsApp group.

The following information has been shared with us about a WhatsApp group. Please be vigilant if your child uses WhatsApp. It is recommended children do not have WhatsApp at this age but we are aware this is not always the case. As always, please monitor what your child accesses online and let us know of any concerns.

'We have been made aware of a concern regarding a National WhatsApp group. There is a WhatsApp group which children are being added to, that currently has 800+ members.

This appears to be asking users to add all their contacts to create the largest group in the world (WhatsApp can currently have a max of 1024), without adults being present. The concern is the content within the group - the majority of users appear to be minors, although there is no way to verify this. Aside from the general bad language and online bullying and harassment, there is evidence of racist, homophobic and sexually explicit language, plus pornographic image /GIFS.

A reference to 'bomb plans' has also been noted - this appears to be racist in nature, particularly in response to when a comment has been made by an Asian member. Police have been alerted to this, but wanted to share this with the school community so we can all be extra vigilant'
(Safeguarding in Education Team, East Riding).

Thank you for your continued support,

Vicky Hearson
Deputy Head

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